



Frederick County Board of Elections

340A Montevue Lane, Frederick, Maryland 21702
FrederickCountyMD.gov/elections

301-600-VOTE (8683)
ElectionBoard@FrederickCountyMD.gov



MINUTES of the August 24, 2020 Meeting of The Frederick County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM, via video and teleconference by the Board President, Mrs. Mary Lou Green.

PRESENT:

Mary Lou Green, President
Shirley McDonald, Vice President
Lawrence C. Hill, Secretary
Mary Costello, Board Member
Daniel B. Loftus, Board Counsel

Stuart Harvey, Election Director
Noreen L. Schultz, Election Deputy Director
Clifton Mowell, Election IT Specialist
Marc R. Welch, Election Administrative Assistant
MC Keegan-Ayer, County Council President

GUESTS:

Jim Filson, League of Women Voters
Steve Bohnel, Frederick News-Post

BOARD OF CANVASSERS:

159 ballots arrived too late for the primary election. Mrs. Costello made a motion to reject the untimely ballots. Mrs. McDonald seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES:

Mr. Harvey added discussion and an update for the mail-in ballot application to old business under the 2020 General Election. Mr. Hill, on behalf of Mr. Woodcock requested a discussion of return ballot postmarks under new business.

MINUTES:

Mrs. McDonald made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 1, 2020 meeting. Mrs. Costello seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mrs. Costello made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 3, 2020 meeting. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COUNCIL LIASON:

The County Council is looking forward to Mr. Harvey's presentation regarding the general election at 4:30 on county cable 19 on August 25, 2020.

Mr. Harvey will also attend the Council's meeting at the end of September, to give the members an election update.

###

OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

1. VOTE BY MAIL APPLICATION MAILING

Mr. Harvey updated the Board that the VBM applications to all Frederick County registered voters will begin arriving in their mail this week. Ballots are expected to be mailed out in late September.

2. EARLY VOTING LOCATION - FREDERICK

Due to the use of the Frederick Senior Center as a food-distribution location, it is unavailable for use as an early voting site. Governor Thomas Johnson High School has been designated as the early voting site in the City. Mr. Welch and Mr. Mowell have conducted the required accessibility and site selection surveys. They also completed signal testing of the location. The use of this site will require approval by the State Board.

3. BALLOT DROP BOXES

Ballot drop boxes will be arriving in late September/early October. There will be a total of 8 drop boxes around Frederick County. Locations are being finalized.

4. EARLY VOTING LOCATION AND DATES

Early voting will begin on Monday, October 26, 2020 through Monday, November 2, 2020 from 7am-8pm each day. The 4 Early Voting sites will be: Governor Thomas Johnson High School, Catoctin High School (in place of Thurmont Library, which is too small to maintain physical distancing requirements,) Urbana Regional Library, and Middletown VFD Activities Building.

5. ELECTION JUDGES

Mrs. Schultz and Ms. Winer are processing election judge applications. Once vote center plans are approved at the State Board, judges will be assigned work locations and training. Mr. Welch updated the Board on the draft schedule, slated to begin week of September 15 through October 10. There will be 3 classes each Tuesday and Thursday, 2 classes each Wednesday and Saturday.

6. CANVASS

The State Board has authorized local boards to begin canvassing as early as October 1. Mr. Harvey anticipates beginning in mid-October, after the conclusion of election judge training. He will provide a recommended date at the next Board meeting.

B. MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS – BRUNSWICK AND EMMITSBURG

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the outcome of the Brunswick City election. They had an all-mail election, with a 38% turnout. There will be a special election for city council in December. He requested approval to waive the fees charged to Brunswick since they are loaning the use of their drop boxes for the November election. The Board approved Mr. Harvey's suggestion.

Emmitsburg has their election upcoming on September 29, 2020. It will be vote-by-mail and in-person at the Town Hall.

C. 2020 MAEO CONFERENCE - AUGUST 25

Mr. Welch and Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the virtual MAEO conference to be held on 8/25. The canvassing of the MAEO election ballots for election of the MAEO Board will occur during the conference.

D. VACANT POSITIONS

Mr. Harvey and Mrs. Schultz updated the Board on the status of the new positions. One person has been hired. Another person will be hired by next week, with hopes they will start September 9. Temporary staff will start next week. Russ Schantz is returning as the LBE Technician.

###

NEW BUSINESS:

A. DISCUSSION OF RETURN BALLOT POSTMARKS:

Mr. Hill, on behalf of Mr. Woodcock, proposed that the State Board address the ballot return deadlines. He requests that the State Board allow ballots to be counted that are postmarked up to 3-days post-election, as long as the oath is signed, and dated no later than November 3, 2020. This is due to concerns with USPS mail delivery potentially delaying timely arrival of mail, due to current changes to USPS processing deadlines.

The Board discussed the proposal. Mr. Loftus says a single Board's request of this change may be less effective. He also said it may require more than just State Board action.

Mr. Hill requested a motion to send the proposal forward to SBE. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion, and it failed by a vote of 1 in favor, 3 opposed. Mrs. Green, Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Costello were opposed; Mr. Hill was in favor.

NEXT MEETING:

The Board scheduled its next meetings for the following dates:

- Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 12:30 PM

- Friday, October 9, 2020 at 10:00 AM

These meetings will be held via video and telephone conference call.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Green made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Costello seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Marc R. Welch

Election Administrative Assistant

Approved by:



Mary Lou Green, Board President

3/12/21
Date